



4. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged vertically upright.

5. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged horizontally.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A coupling apparatus for a frame system, comprising a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts, a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each ease if the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts, and a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, the coupling apparatus further comprising:

first and second coupling units, the first coupling unit being connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate, and the second coupling unit being provided with a first coupling element and a second coupling element; and



